

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 297843

62

ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON PEACE HAWK V

AMMAN FOR ASST. SEC. ATHERTON; PARIS FOR DEPASST
SEC SOBER FROM ACTING ASST. SEC. DUBS

1. FASCELL SUBCOMMITTEE OF HIRC HELD HEARING TODAY ON
DOLS 1.8 BILLION PEACE HAWK V LETTER OF OFFER (SAUDI F-5
SUPPORT) AND ON ROSENTHAL RESOLUTION DISAPPROVING THIS
SALE. LTG. FISH AND SUPPORTING DOD WITNESSES TESTIFIED.
NO DEPT WITNESSES WERE ASKED, AND WE HAD DECIDED PRIOR TO
HEARING NOT TO REQUEST A HEARING, BUT TO LET DOD APPEAR
AND THEN MAKE JUDGMENT ON BASIS OF OUTCOME OF THE HEARING
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PAGE 02 STATE 297843

AS TO WHETHER IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO REQUEST AN

OPPORTUNITY FOR A STATE WITNESS TO TESTIFY.

2. ROSENTHAL SPOKE STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF HIS RESOLUTION, EMPHASIZING NEGATIVE IMPACT ON ISRAELI SECURITY; SAUDI VISA AND BOYCOTT POLICIES; HIS CONTENTION THAT NO EFFECTIVE BAR TO TRANSFER TO CONFRONTATION STATES EXISTS; FACT THAT TOTAL FMS SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA OVER THE PAST MONTH - AS SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS - AMOUNTS TO MORE THAN DOLS 3.5 BILLION; AND PRINCE SULTAN'S STATEMENT IN LATE 1974 THAT EQUIPMENT PURCHASED FROM US WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO OTHER

ARAB NATIONS IN EVENT OF A NEW WAR. HE INITIATED LENGTHY DIALOGUE ON SAUDI AIR FORCE PARTICIPATION IN RECENT MANEUVERS IN SYRIA, AND QUESTIONED PROPRIETY OF OUR CONDUCTING ANY FMS PROGRAMS IN COUNTRIES WHICH OBSERVE THE BOYCOTT, IN LIGHT OF PRESIDENT'S NOV 20 STATEMENT.

3. POSITIVE FACTORS IN SALE WERE EMPHASIZED BY SOME OTHER MEMBERS, WITH FASCELL BRINGING OUT VERY FAVORABLE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND EMPLOYMENT IMPACT IN US, WINN POINTING TO NEED MAINTAIN BALANCE IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH NATIONS OF THE AREA, AND BUCHANAN WRAPPING HEARING UP WITH STRONG STATEMENT ON IMPORTANCE OF SAUDI ARABIA TO OUR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES IN THE AREA, AND STRESSING HE "SHUDDERED TO THINK" OF CONSEQUENCES FOR SAUDI-US RELATIONS OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO DIS-APPROVE SALE.

4. AFTER HEARING FASCELL COMMENTED TO AN INQUIRING MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE THAT NO FURTHER ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN ON RESOLUTION IN VIEW OF SHORT TIME LEFT BEFORE RECESS. OUR NET JUDGMENT IS THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO PURSUE THIS ANY FURTHER BY REQUESTING OPPORTUNITY FOR STATE WITNESS TO APPEAR, AND UNLESS YOU ADVISE TO CONTRARY WE PLAN TO LET MATTERS TAKE THEIR COURSE WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION ON OUR PART. INGERSOLL

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